

# Calendar No. 1601

80TH CONGRESS }  
2d Session }

SENATE

} REPORT  
No. 1551

AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS TO CONVEY TO THE CITY OF CHEYENNE, WYO., FOR PUBLIC-PARK AND GOLF-COURSE PURPOSES, CERTAIN LAND SITUATED WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION CENTER AT CHEYENNE, WYO.

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JUNE 8 (legislative day, JUNE 1), 1948.—Ordered to be printed

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Mr. MILLIKIN, from the Committee on Finance, submitted the following

## REPORT

(To accompany S. 2820)

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2820) to authorize the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to convey to the city of Cheyenne, Wyo., for public park and golf course purposes, certain land situated within the boundaries of the Veterans' Administration center at Cheyenne, Wyo., having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment, and recommend that the bill do pass.

### GENERAL STATEMENT

Authorization is given to the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to convey a parcel of land located within the boundaries of the Veterans' Administration center at Cheyenne, Wyo., to the city of Cheyenne. The title would revert to the United States should the city fail to maintain a public park and golf course on this land, and the deed of transfer shall reserve to the United States all interest in fissionable material. This latter provision is in accordance with Executive Order 9908, dated December 5, 1947.

The Veterans' Administration center at Cheyenne consists of a regional office and a general medical hospital located on a 600-acre tract. The land was originally donated by the city for use by the Veterans' Administration. The parcel to be reconveyed is a part of this original 600-acre tract and consists of approximately 430.91 acres of undeveloped prairie. This land has not been used for the past 15 years except that it has from time to time been leased for grazing purposes.

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It is understood that plans have been made by the city of Cheyenne to expend approximately \$160,000 in the development of the area. It is believed to be to the interest of the Veterans' Administration to have this land developed as a public park and golf course so that patients in the veterans' hospital would have additional recreational facilities. In addition, the general appearance of the neighborhood will be enhanced.

The enactment of the proposed bill will not involve the expenditure of any public funds.

The letter from the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs on this bill is as follows:

VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION,  
Washington 25, D. C., March 4, 1948.

HON. ARTHUR H. VANDENBERG,  
*President pro tempore of the Senate,*  
Washington 25, D. C.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: There is transmitted herewith a draft of bill to authorize the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to convey to the city of Cheyenne, Wyo., for public park and golf course purposes, certain land situated within the boundaries of the Veterans' Administration Center at Cheyenne, Wyo., with a request that it be introduced in order that it may be considered for enactment.

The purpose of the proposed bill is to provide authorization for the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to reconvey to the city of Cheyenne, for public park and golf course purposes, a parcel of land situated within the present boundaries of the Veterans' Administration Center located in that city.

The Veterans' Administration Center at Cheyenne, Wyo., consists of a regional office and general medical hospital located on a 600-acre tract of land which was donated by the city to the United States for use by the Veterans' Administration. The land to be reconveyed is a part of this tract and consists of approximately 430.91 acres of undeveloped prairie. During the 15 years this land has been under the jurisdiction of the Veterans' Administration, the 430.91 acres in question have not been used with the exception that, from time to time, it has been leased for grazing purposes. The reconveyance of such land to the city of Cheyenne would in no way interfere with the present or prospective operation of the center.

The city of Cheyenne is in need of additional recreational facilities as its population has increased rapidly in recent years. The land in question was originally acquired by the city for use as a recreational area and since it is not being used by the Veterans' Administration, the city desires to acquire it for use as a public park and golf course. It is understood that plans have been made to expend \$160,000 in the development of the area, if reconveyed to the city.

It is to the interest of the Veterans' Administration to have this land developed by the city as a public park and golf course. Patients from the Veterans' Administration hospital would have additional recreational facilities and the general appearance of the neighborhood would be enhanced.

As will be noted under the provisions of the proposed bill, if the city of Cheyenne uses the land for any purpose other than a public park or golf course, title to the land will revert to the United States. This provision has been included, not because the Veterans' Administration anticipates any future need for the land, but it is desired to insure against use of the land for any purpose which might interfere with hospital activities.

At the present time, a small part of the tract is used, with the permission of the Veterans' Administration, as the site of the middle marker of the instrument landing system maintained by the Civil Aeronautics Administration at the Cheyenne airport. The Civil Aeronautics Administration has advised the Veterans' Administration that it does not desire an easement but would prefer to lease the land which it uses from the city if the land is reconveyed. A stipulation as to such lease will be arranged with the city of Cheyenne before delivery of the deed.

The enactment of the proposed bill would not involve the expenditure of public funds.

As the proposed use of the land in question would be to the mutual benefit of both the Government and the city of Cheyenne, the Veterans' Administration recommends favorable consideration of the proposed legislation.

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Advice has been received from the Bureau of the Budget that there would be no objection to the submission of the draft of bill and letter of transmittal to the Congress for its consideration.

Sincerely yours,

CARL R. GRAY, Jr.,  
*Administrator.*

The committee is in accord with the purposes of the bill and recommends its enactment.

